

(b) A certain number of armament items manufactured in May, 1996 were supplied with propellant manufactured in 1988.

(c) The manufacturer had clarified that the propellant was tested by them and the quality was found to be good.

(d) The manufacturer has been asked to replace the items. Payment for these has not been made.

Norms for foreign investment in defence sector

1099. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for foreign investment in the defence sector;

(b) the defence production units which have been identified for expansion with foreign investment; and

(c) the details of time schedule fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have decided that the defence industry sector be opened for participation by Indian private sector upto 100 per cent of equity, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), component of it being permissible upto 26 per cent, both being subject to licensing permissions. All types of defence equipments are covered under the decision. No private sector defence production unit, as such, has been licensed for production of defence equipment with Foreign Direct Investment as yet.

Prosecution of Tehelka for using unconventional means

1100. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prosecution has been launched against Tehelka for having used unconventional means to bring out truth from the Army Officer; and

(b) if so, under what provision of law they have been prosecuted?

[28 November 2001] RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum of MPs regarding crash of MIG-21 aircrafts

1101. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some MPs had submitted a memorandum stating that over 100 MIG-21 aircrafts have crashed in the last five years and over 50 pilots had been killed and requested the Prime Minister to take interest in the incidence of MIG-21 crashes;

(b) whether an enquiry was held;

(c) if so, what are its findings; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Some MPs had submitted a memorandum in August this year expressing concern at air crashes and stating that over 100 MIG aircraft had crashed in the last five years and over 50 pilots killed.

(b) to (d) The causes of air crashes are inquired and analysed continuously. The major causes of accidents are human error, technical defect and bird hit. Measures have been/are being implemented to reduce the air crashes. These include preventive measures based on the recommendations of the Courts of Inquiry, improving the quality of training, measures to reduce bird hit accidents, etc.

Inclusion of names of Bangladeshi nationals in the census

†1102. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the names of some Bangladeshi nationals have been included in the last census;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued the orders not to include the names of Bangladeshi nationals during this census;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.